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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

TOPIC 1. 14th Mecz Div in Olomouc
2. 4th Mecz Regt in Olomouc
3. 14th Tank Tg Bn in Sternberk

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT prior to 21 June 1952DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 8 December 1952REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1

REMARKS

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14th Mecz Div in Olomouc.

- Prior to 21 June 1952, the headquarters of the 14th Mecz Div was located in a building opposite the T.G. Masaryk monument on the east edge of Olomouc (Olmuetsz, P 50/N 85). The division was subordinate to the 2d MD in Trencin (P 49/T 58) to which all troops in Moravia and Slovakia were subordinate. The troops in Bohemia were subordinate to the 1st MD in Prague. The division was commanded by General Bures(fnu). The Soviet adviser was Colonel Frolof (fnu) who wore a grey-blue uniform and a grey-blue flat service cap with broad red band.¹
- Units subordinate to the 14th Mecz Div included: the 4th Mecz Regt in Olomouc, the 36th Mecz Regt in Sumperk (P 50/N 69), an infantry unit in Prerov (P 50/0 03), an artillery regiment in Prostejov (P 50/N 73), the 14th Ordnance Workshop in Olomouc and the 14th Tank Tg Bn in Sternberk (P 50/N 86).¹

4th Mecz Regt in Olomouc.

- The regimental units of the 4th Mecz Regt in Olomouc, were quartered in the Prokopa Holeho Barracks, about 800 meters southwest of the main railroad station, on both sides of the Holicka Třida. The 1st and the 2d Bns were quartered in the Jiriho z Podebrad Barracks in the center of the city; and the 3d Bn was in Praslavice (O 50/M 32). The Prokopa Holeho Barracks which was fenced in partly by wire fence and partly by a hedge, consisted of about 20 one-story and two-story brick buildings. The Jiriho z Podebrad Barracks was a large four-story brick building, about 40 meters square.²
- Officers of the 4th Mecz Regt included: Staff Captain Jan Pavlo, commanding officer; Staff Captain Mujer (fnu), deputy commanding officer; Senior Lieutenant Bartos (fnu), political officer; Staff Captain Myska (fnu), chief of staff; Staff Captain Salek (fnu), administrative officer; Major Antonin Haspl, commanding officer of the 2d Bn who had been promoted in May 1952.³

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5. In June 1952, the personnel of the regiment consisted of Czechs and Slovaks, about one half each, and some Hungarians. They were members of the 1926 through 1932 classes. The members of the 1930 class had reported for active service on 1 April 1951, the members of the 1931 class on 1 November 1951 and the few of the 1932 class on 1 April 1952.⁴

6. The regiment was organized into the regimental units including: the headquarters company totaling about 60 men; the regimental band of about 30 men; the technical company of about 60 men, subdivided into an engineer platoon and a signal communication platoon; the reconnaissance company of about 30 men; the motor transport platoon of about 40 men; an artillery unit of about 60 men; the mortar company of about 30 men; a company of the technical service (rota technickeho zabezpeceni) (RTZ), an NCO officer school; the 1st and 2d Art Bns; and the 3d Tank Bn. The mechanized battalions each consisted of three companies of 30 men each and a training company of about 30 men. The 3d Bn totaling about 200 men consisted of four armored companies and an RTZ company. The RTZ companies were composed of motor vehicle drivers and mechanics.²

7. The artillery unit of the regiment was equipped with about 15 guns of about 50-mm caliber towed by half-track vehicles, and the mortar company had some 82-mm mortars. The technical company was equipped with some pneumatic boats and old German telephone and radio sets. The mechanized companies were equipped with model 98-II rifles, Czech model 23 A and B submachine guns and each had about three light machine guns. Each company had three half-track vehicles. The 3d Tank Bn was equipped with a total of about 10 T-34 tanks only which were distributed to the companies. More than 1,000 model 98 K and 24 rifles, about 300 pistols, about 15 model 37 heavy machine guns, 10 bazookas and more than 1,000 wooden crates each containing 6 bazookas were stored in the ordnance depot of the regiment. The total number of motor vehicles was estimated at about 60 half-track vehicles, about 100 RN, RMD and Tatra trucks, some jeeps and about 14 motorcycles.² After adoption of the new uniform insignia, the soldiers of the 1st, 2d and 3d Bns of the regiment wore red epaulets, whereas the engineers had black epaulets with two crossed axes and the signal personnel blue-bordered black epaulets with two crossed lightning bolts. The trained tank troops wore black epaulets with tank insignia.

8. The training companies of the 1st and 2d Bns were activated only after the recruits of the 1932 class had arrived on 1 April 1952.⁴ The basic training lasted 6 weeks. The course at the NCO school which comprised about 200 men of the 1931 class inducted in the fall of 1951, started in January 1952 and was scheduled to last 6 months. In September 1951, the whole regiment was at the Lesto Libava (P 50/0 07) training camp.

14th Tank Tg Bn in Sternberk.

9. Prior to 15 September 1951, the 14th Tank Tg Bn was quartered in a barracks installation south of Sternberk on the east side of the road to Closouc. The barracks installation, fenced in by a palisade, consisted of about 20 one-story and two-story wooden buildings. Some instructors of the unit were quartered in the former monastery on the eastern edge of the installation and in the Air Force Barracks on the southern edge. [redacted] the battalion had been activated in the fall of 1950.⁵

10. Staff Captain Skapko (fnu) was the commanding officer of the battalion and Lieutenant Colonel Autla (fnu) was the political officer. The battalion was organized into the 1st and the 2d Tg Cos of about 120 men each; the 3d and 4th Tank Cos of 30 men each; and an RTZ company. The 1st and the 2d Cos with which mainly recruits of the 1930 class served, had six older T-34 tanks each, whereas the 3d and the 4th Cos consisting of older soldiers, were equipped with about seven German 8P guns and some light German tanks. The RTZ company comprising mainly motor vehicle mechanics had 1 track-laying recovery vehicle and 2 repair shop trucks. The personnel wore red-bordered black epaulets.⁵

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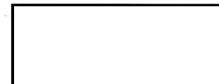
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11. The basic training of the recruits lasted 2 or 3 weeks from 1 April 1951 and was followed by tank training at the Jesto Libava troop training grounds. This training included theoretical instruction in the class rooms until July 1951 and then practical driver's training with difficult cross-country driving after a training period of 3 weeks.

Miscellaneous.

12. Prior to mid-June 1952, the 11th Ordnance workshop was located opposite the Prokopa Molcho Barracks in Olomouc. The installation was surrounded by a wire fence and consisted of a workshop building, 3 low brick buildings used as quarters, 2 long garages and 3 low wooden buildings which contained the engineer equipment depot of the division. Senior Lieutenant Jan Rehak was chief of the repair shop. The orderly rooms were in the headquarters building of the division. All repairs to light and heavy arms of the regiment were performed by the shop which was equipped with 4 lathes, 2 milling machines, 3 pillar drilling machines, 1 planer and 1 grinder. A technical company of about 25 men and a training company of about 25 recruits who were trained as armorers, were assigned to the repair shop.

13. An AA officer candidate school was located in the Jiskrov Barracks in Olomouc on the northern bank of the Morava River about 900 meters northwest of the Olomouc main railroad station. Four units totaling about 600 men wearing gold-bordered black epaulets were repeatedly seen there. Training with guns mounted on four twin-wheels and towed by Tatra-128 trucks was observed in May 1952.⁶

14. An AA war academy was located in the 9 kvetna Barracks west of the officer candidate school, about 1,200 meters northwest of the Olomouc main railroad station on the western bank of the Morava River. The trainees also wore gold-bordered black epaulets and 1 to 4 golden stripes on the left sleeve. Six companies totaling 800 men were seen leaving the barracks installation. The guns seen there were of the same type as those of the officer candidate school.⁶

15. In May 1952, a fuel depot consisting of five brick buildings was noticed at the Kepcice railroad station on the northwest edge of Olomouc. Personnel of a technical battalion were installing underground containers.

16. Prior to June 1952, the 331st Guard Bn was quartered in the Janosikovy Barracks consisting of a three-story building about 60 meters long and located close to the Jiriho z Pomebrad Barracks. The battalion was commanded by Staff Captain Revaj (inu) and was directly assigned to the 2d ID in Trnecin. It was organized into four guard companies each of about 100 men and equipped with model 98-N rifles and models 23-A and 23-B submachine guns and 4 trucks and 1 motorcycle. The personnel, most of whom wore red epaulets, were members of various classes. The battalion was engaged in guarding the military installations in the Olomouc area.⁷

17. Prior to 2 February 1952, the 13th Guard Co which was directly assigned to the 2d ID in Trnecin was quartered in the former officer candidate school in the southwestern sector of the Cerna Pole borough of Brno (P 50/N 40). It was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Jan Barak and numbered about 120 troops, who came from various units including an infantry unit in Juklovice (O 49/S 17). The company was employed in guarding military installations in the area of Brno including the ammunition dump south of Brno-Nedlany which consisted of 2 guardhouses and more than 10 ferro-concrete ammunition buildings.⁸

18. The former officer candidate school also quartered a motor transport unit of about 150 men wearing red-bordered brown epaulets. About 60 Praga M1 trucks were in the garages.

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1. [redacted] Comment. This is the first information on a 11th Lecz Div. A 11th Inf Div has been carried in Mlada Boleslav which, however, has not been confirmed since 1950 and most probably was dissolved. According to previous information, it was a cadre division. [redacted]

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[redacted] it is believed that the 22d Lecz Regt is stationed in Přerov and the 4th Ltry Regt in Prostějov. Various units of the tank corps have been carried in the localities mentioned. The tank corps has most probably been dissolved or reorganized. It is undetermined whether the tank corps has been incorporated into the 11th Lecz Div or whether additional mechanized or motorized units have been activated.

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2. [redacted] Comment. Organization, armament and strength of the 4th Lecz Regt almost completely correspond with those of the 38th Lecz Regt in Česká Třebová.

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3. [redacted] Comment. General Bures (fmu) mentioned in paragraph 1 is possibly identical with a Brigade General František Bures with unknown assignment who was mentioned in a Czech newspaper record in October 1951. It was previously reported that a Lieutenant Bartos (fmu) was political officer with the 20th Inf Regt in Presov and a Staff Captain Otto Hujer was commanding officer of the reserve officer school in Čáslav. Further information is needed to determine whether the officers mentioned in the present report are identical with these officers.

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4. [redacted] Comment. Further information is required on the induction of 1931 and 1932 classes. It has been believed that the bulk of the 1931 class would be inducted as late as the fall of 1952, but it also appears possible that, in view of the very low personnel strengths and in order to execute the decree on lowering the age of induction to 19 years, the 1932 class has also been inducted since the spring of 1952.

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5. [redacted] Comment. The mentioned buildings in Čáslav previously quartered the 12th Tank Brig which probably was renamed 11th Tank Fz Bn and incorporated into the 11th Lecz Div. There is reason for belief that the medium tank regiment and the heavy SP gun regiment are scheduled to be activated from this unit. Possibly the 24th Tank Brig has also been incorporated into the division for the activation of the two regiments.

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6. [redacted] Comment. As early as September 1951, the Jishrov Barracks was reportedly occupied by an AA unit. [redacted] Gold or yellow-bordered epaulets are worn by personnel for reserve officer candidates schools.

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7. [redacted] Comment. This report is the first to mention the guard battalion.

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8. [redacted] Comment. The 63d Guard Battalion was previously carried in Lrno. However, it was probably dissolved simultaneously with the 11D or reorganized into the 13th Guard Co.

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